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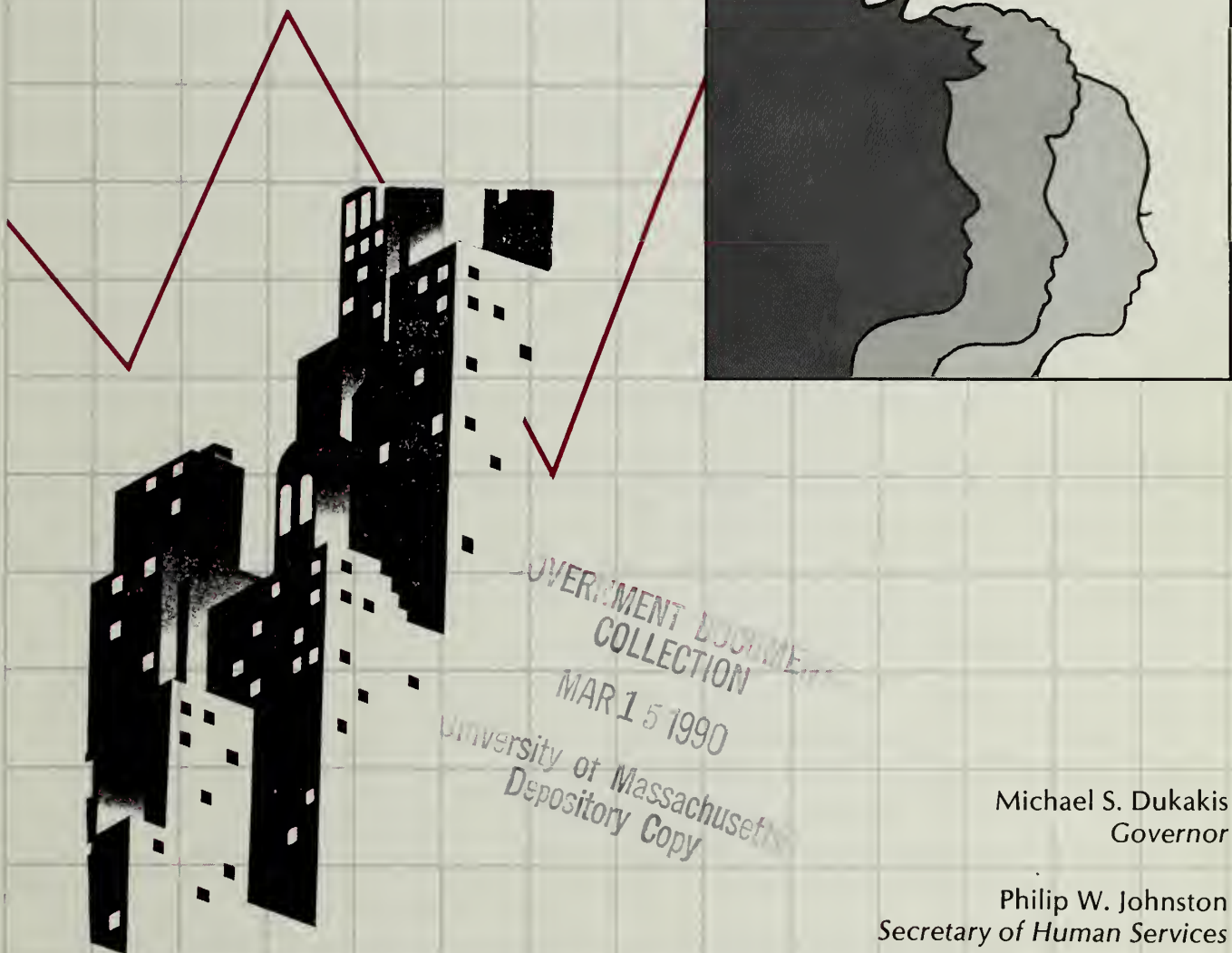
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Child Care in Massachusetts

FACTS & FIGURES

FY '88



GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT
COLLECTION

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Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

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PREFACE

In 1985, Governor Dukakis launched the Governor's Day Care Partnership Initiative to make high quality, affordable day care more available to the children and families of Massachusetts. The initiative created partnerships between the private sector, local governments and the state to develop new resources and improve the quality of child care in the Commonwealth.

The results of the two-year initiative have been significant. Between FY'85 and FY'87:

- the state budget for child day care rose by 50 percent.
- the licensed capacity of day care centers increased more than 15 percent.
- wages were raised an average of 32 percent for day care workers employed in programs with state contracts.
- a new statewide network of twelve Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&Rs) Agencies was established to help parents find good child care, to mobilize local resources and enlist local leaders in meeting day care needs.

Recognizing the continued need to coordinate the functions of the Partnership and to realize fully the goals of this initiative, Governor Dukakis established the Day Care Policy Unit at the Executive Office of Human Services (EOHS) in 1987.

The Day Care Policy Unit:

- coordinates the work of the at least eleven state agencies currently involved in regulating, purchasing, stimulating or developing policies for child care.
- is responsible for budget and long range planning, policy and resource development and public education and advocacy.
- develops a work plan each year specifying the goals and objectives in each of these areas for the coming year.
- compiles an annual report detailing the accomplishments of the unit and other state agencies, day care providers, advocates, parents and employers.

In FY'88 the state continued working to make the vision described in the Governor's Day Care Partnership a reality.

- By FY'88 state government spending for all day care programs reached \$136.5 million, an increase of over 100 percent since FY'85.
- More than 90 percent of the total Massachusetts day care budget was earmarked for the direct funding of day care slots.

CREATING MORE CHILD CARE

THE SUPPLY

In FY'88 in the Commonwealth, there were just over 1,900 licensed day care centers for young children, another 650 programs serving school-aged children and more than 9,200 state-monitored family day care homes.

Child Care Centers

The state's 1,909 licensed child care centers cared for a total of 94,919 children in FY'88. According to the Massachusetts Office for Children (OFC):

- 43 percent of all children in non-parental care are enrolled in child care centers.
- the licensed capacity of child care centers has increased by 16 percent between FY'85 and FY'88.
- applications for 159 new child care centers were filed during FY'88.
- a total of 8,074 infants and toddlers were enrolled in child care centers in FY'88—an increase of 23 percent since 1985.

Family Day Care Homes

During FY'88 the state's 9,234 family day care homes cared for an estimated 57,757 children age seven years and under. According to a state-wide survey:

- more than 15 percent of children in non-parental care attend a family day care home.
- family day care is particularly important for infants and toddlers: 20 percent of all infants in care, and 23 percent of all toddlers in care are in family day care.
- the Family Day Care Zoning Law, adopted in July of 1987, amended Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A by defining family day care as an allowable residential use unless specifically excluded by local zoning ordinances. This amendment eliminated a significant barrier to the development of additional family day care homes in the state.

School-Age Child Care Programs

In FY'88, OFC introduced a new licensing program for school-age child care centers. These centers care for children who are of kindergarten age through 13 years of age. They operate before or after school and during school vacations.

- School-age child care represents one of the fastest growing types of care in the state.
- An estimated 21,120 children were enrolled in 655 school age child care programs in FY'88.
- \$50,000 was awarded to eleven programs to open new or expand existing school age child care programs, bringing the total awarded since FY'87 to \$90,000. Almost 600 new school-age child care slots have been created as a result of these grants.

THE DEMAND

In Massachusetts, 59 percent of children under 13 years of age live in families where both parents are employed, or in single parent families where the resident parent is employed. That is a total of approximately 550,000 children.

- 335,000 of these children are in child care because their parents work—134,000 with relatives and 201,000 with non-relatives.
- 87 percent of young children in employed single-parent families and almost 75 percent of young children in two-worker families are regularly cared for by someone other than a parent.
- In 1986, more than half (54 percent) of the children in Massachusetts under six years of age had mothers who worked.
- 41 percent of mothers not currently employed report that they would look for work or enter school or a job training program if satisfactory child care were available to them at a reasonable cost.
- OFC estimates that there is a current need for a minimum of 20,000 additional child care slots.
- By 1995, 410,000 children will need child care, an increase of 23 percent representing an additional 75,000 children in less than ten years.

THE STATE'S RESPONSE

The State as Model Employer

As the largest employer in the Commonwealth, Massachusetts is helping state employees fulfill their roles as both parents and workers.

In FY'88, through the efforts of the Division of Capital Planning and Operations (DCPO):

- the Commonwealth initiated projects which created 13 new programs for 740 children of state employees.
- a total of 33 child care programs in state-owned facilities served more than 1,800 children.

State Subsidies for Child Care

The Department of Social Services (DSS) created a new Day Care Unit in FY'88, merging the existing Voucher and Contracted Day Care units to improve integration and coordination of services.

During FY'88 DSS contracted with private agencies to provide child care services to eligible families:

- more than 28,000 children received subsidized day care services.
- 375 teen parents and their children attended comprehensive child care programs specially designed to meet their needs.

Employer-Supported Child Care Initiatives

In July, 1988, the Executive Office of Economic Affairs (EOEA) formed the Day Care Business Advisory Board. Composed of corporate leaders already providing a variety of child care benefits for their employees, the Board's goal is to encourage other employers to do the same.

In FY'88, The Corporate Child Care Program identified 253 employers who were providing some type of help with child care:

- 50 employers sponsored worksite day care centers.
- 63 employers provided child care resource and referral services.
- 29 employers provided financial assistance, including dependent care assistance plans in their employee benefits programs.

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Operating under the Massachusetts Office for Children, a network of local agencies act as their communities' day care brokers, bringing together employees, parents, providers and others to expand existing programs and start new ones.

- Initiated in 1985 with five agencies, the network expanded to serve the entire state in February, 1987.
- By FY'88, 12 state-subsidized child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies were operating through 21 local offices.
- Between 1985 and 1988, CCR&Rs helped 60,653 parents find child care.
- During FY'88, CCR&Rs received 35,203 calls from parents looking for child care.
- 90 percent of parents calling needed care because they work outside the home.
- 25,243 providers, individuals, and businesses called CCR&Rs for advice on starting child care programs, as well as for other general information.

Public Housing and Child Care

The Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD) has been instrumental in creating over half of the child care centers located in public housing developments.

- In FY'88 there were 37 child care centers in public housing developments, serving 1,014 children. Of these centers, 23 had opened since 1985.
- An additional 13 centers are expected to open in FY'89 and FY'90, serving 355 more children.
- A recent survey of the child care needs of families living in public housing indicates that there is a current need for more than 2,000 additional child care slots.

Local School Districts

The Department of Education (DOE) established the Bureau of Early Childhood Programs in FY'88 to continue to encourage the development of early childhood education programs within public school systems throughout Massachusetts.

Current DOE early childhood education programs and resources include the Special Education P. L. 99-457 Preschool Grant, the Chapter 188 Early Childhood Program, the State Head Start Salary Enhancement Program, and the State Head Start Expansion Program.

In FY'88:

- 128 school districts were awarded more than \$10,500,000 in Chapter 188 grants and served 8,000 kindergartners and 4,000 preschoolers.

- \$5.36 million in federal funds supported services for 9,000 preschool-age children with special needs.
- the state legislature appropriated \$4.5 million in salary enhancement and expansion funds for Head Start programs. \$1.5 million of the total was used to expand Head Start services to an additional 400 children.

MAKING CHILD CARE AFFORDABLE

Child care is affordable when a family can pay for that care without sacrificing other basic necessities. Affordable child care allows families to remain, or become, economically self-sufficient.

THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE

According to a June, 1988 study, the cost of full-time care in a Massachusetts child care center averages over \$7,300 per year for an infant or toddler and about \$5,000 for a child between the ages of three and six years. The cost for a child in family day care averaged \$5,400 annually.

- Half of the state's low income families who use non-parental child care paid ten percent or more of their gross annual income for child care—39 percent pay 15 percent or more.
- Among moderate income families, 13 percent paid 15 percent or more of their gross annual salary for child care.

THE STATE'S RESPONSE

State Supported Child Care

Massachusetts currently purchases child care services for eligible families through two major programs: a sliding fee scale system known as contracted day care, funded through the Department of Social Services (DSS) and a system known as voucher day care, funded through the Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) Employment and Training Choices (ET) program.

In FY'88:

- the legislature budgeted more than \$128 million for direct funding of day care slots—\$94 million from DSS and \$34.2 million from DPW. This is an increase of almost 100 percent since FY'85.

- over 12,000 children of former or current AFDC recipients received child care services as part of their parent's participation in DPW's ET program.
- 13,537 income eligible children received child care subsidies through state contracts with day care centers and family day care systems.
- another 4,084 children with protective or special needs attended child care programs under DSS's Supportive Day Care Program.
- there were just over 59,000 children enrolled in licensed child care programs whose families had incomes below 71 per cent of the state's median income. A substantial percentage—42 percent—of them received a state subsidy.

Day Care Affordability Task Force

In 1985, the Massachusetts legislature created a task force to devise ways to eliminate the affordability gap.

In July, 1987, the Task Force implemented a pilot scholarship program, the Affordability Scholarship Assistance Program (ASAP), to assist families whose income ranged from 71 to 100 percent of the state's median income.

- The program provided an average of \$1,200 for a full year's aid to 310 families through a lottery in FY'88 for a total of \$344,000 in scholarships.
- Continuing assistance will be provided to original scholarship winners who remain eligible.

The Task Force commissioned a study, **Caring for Our Common Wealth: The Economics of Child Care in Massachusetts**, to document the gap between the cost of care and parents' ability to pay.

A companion document will detail subsequent recommendations of the Child Care Affordability Task Force. Entitled **Cooperative Solutions to the High Cost of Child Care**, it is scheduled for publication in FY'89.

DEVELOPING QUALITY CHILD CARE

A considerable body of research indicates that good early childhood programs have long-lasting benefits for children. These benefits coupled with working parents' need for reliable child care have made the development of high quality programs a priority for Massachusetts.

FACTORS AFFECTING QUALITY

Quality child care programs provide safe and nurturing environments for children, employ well-trained, caring and qualified staff, and maintain strong links to parents.

- Providers who have specific training in child development or early childhood education consistently offer a higher quality program.
- Group size and low child to staff ratios are critical to the quality of care provided. Children do better socially and intellectually in small groups.
- Children's development is enhanced when parents are involved.

THE STATE'S RESPONSE

Staff Salaries

To help attract and keep qualified staff in the field of child care, Massachusetts embarked on a state-supported program to upgrade salaries paid to child care workers.

- Wages for child care employees in programs with state contracts increased by 49 percent between 1985 and 1988.
- Compensation for family day care providers who care for children subsidized by the state increased 82 percent between 1985 and 1988, to a daily rate of \$15.47 per child.

Training Opportunities

The Day Care Training Program moved from DSS to OFC in FY'88. OFC expanded training opportunities and opened enrollment to all child care workers.

Just over 13,000 child care workers participated in OFC-funded courses, conferences, workshops and seminars in FY'88:

- 2,000 individuals completed 77 courses at 14 different colleges.
- more than 900 family day care providers attended five educational conferences.
- a total of 130 providers attended the state's first School-Age Child Care Conference.
- 56 individuals completed the program's career ladder seminar series.

- 120 workers received individual tuition reimbursement and 40 individuals received scholarships to study early childhood administration.
- CCR&Rs provided workshops and other training sessions to over 9,600 child care providers.

Licensing Standards

Massachusetts has been in the forefront of the nation in ensuring safe, quality child care.

In FY'88, OFC revised the regulations governing staff qualifications in group day care settings:

- day care center directors are required to have additional education in day care administration, along with training and experience in working with children.
- on-going staff development programs will be provided by all child care centers to help staff continue to improve their skills.

In FY'88, OFC licensors visited more than 7,000 providers in family day care homes, child care centers

and school-age child care programs to issue new licenses, monitor operating conditions and investigate complaints.

In November of 1987, OFC expanded its Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Program to include all child care workers who have unmonitored contact with children in their programs.

- 18,552 child care workers were screened in FY'88.

Parent Involvement

The state's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) network provides information to parents about choosing child care, including information about child care availability and quality factors.

- CCR&Rs, working with OFC, developed "**How to Select Child Care**," a guide to help parents select high quality child care that meets their family's needs. 50,000 copies in English and Spanish were made available to parents across the Commonwealth.



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